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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

THE GOLD THREAD OF EMBROIDERY.

THE silver is brought from the Bank of England in cakes weighing about 1,000 ounces. To secure the necessary degree of tenacity, a certain proportion of copper is added, and the alloyed metal, in the form of cylindrical bars, is next thoroughly heated. The hammering process follows, and the bars, originally about two feet in length and two inches in diameter, but now half as long again and proportionately thinner, are in the next place filed and rubbed until their surfaces are perfectly even.

What we may call the second part of the process begins with the laying on of leaf after leaf of gold in the proportion of two per cent. Afterward each bar is wrapped in paper and well

tened wire round silk to form the golden thread of commerce. These spinning machines are worked by water, although two steam engines are to be found in the factory, for water power is considered to be more regular and even in its action. There is a small home demand for the round wire for the adornment of epaulets, etc., but the bulk of the manufactured article finds its way in the shape of silky gold thread to India and the far East generally, where it is converted by skilled native labor into those gorgeous cloths and tissues in which the heart of the Oriental delights.

What a wonderful property does gold possess in its malleability! It is asserted that every ounce of the bars, whose fortunes we have followed with no little interest, each containing only two per cent. of gold, will run the length of from 500 yards



DESIGN FOR PLATE, BY EMMA HAYWOOD.

heated in a charcoal fire. A sort of vice stands ready, and in it bar after bar as it comes from the fire is fixed and thoroughly burnished. All trace of its silver original has now disappeared, and the bar is ready for conversion into wire. This is accomplished by drawing it from 100 to 150 times through ever diminishing holes in steel plates, and finally when the capabilities of this metal have been exhausted, through apertures in diamonds, rubies or sapphires. The delicate wire thus obtained must now be passed through the steel rollers of one of Herr Krupp's little "flattening mills."

This brings us to the final process—the spinning of the flat-

to 2,500 yards, and the amazing figure of 5,000 yards is on record. This latter thread would be finer than a human hair, but the extreme limit is not even yet reached.—*Chamber's Journal*.

It is upon delicate textile stuffs stiffened with sea-weed glue that Oriental artists paint those designs which in richness of color and brilliancy are unsurpassed. This glue is even applied for the purpose to light gauzes. A suitable glue made from the gelatinous material of Irish moss is sold by the chemists.